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Communist and Free World Supply of Arms to
Egypt, Syria, Iraq, and Libya

6 October 1973 - 22 November 1974

Since the beginning of the October 1973 War, the Communists have delivered almost \$1.9 billion in military equipment to Egypt, Syria, Iraq, and Libya. Of this total approximately 50% was delivered during the October War or shortly thereafter. Syria has been the principal recipient of the Soviet military effort, receiving about 50% of the total value of deliveries since 6 October 1973. (For details see table I, attached) The following paragraphs highlight the thrust and content of Communist military deliveries since the start of the October War. A section dealing with arms acquisitions from Free World and other sources also is included.

Current Status and Prospects for Communist
Military Deliveries

Egypt

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Last August Moscow resumed seaborne arms deliveries to
Egypt after a four month hiatus.

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We have no
evidence that new major equipment has been involved in the recent
shipments, Communist deliveries during the past year have not made
up for Egyptian losses during the October War.

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Libya

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Libya continues to barter its oil wealth for military
hardware. Last May Prime Minister Jallud concluded a significant

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military agreement during his Moscow visit.

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Two of the items probably involved in the deal -- SA-6 surface-to-air missiles and T-62 Tanks -- were displayed in Tripoli on September 1 in the parade commemorating Qadhafi's fifth anniversary of power.

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Syria

Damascus continues to be the focal point of Moscow's military aid diplomacy in the Middle East, having received arms valued at over \$400 million in 1974. Soviet equipment shipped this year has not only completed the replacement of Damascus's war losses, but also has enabled Syria to expand and upgrade its air and ground forces significantly.

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Assad's talks in Moscow in late September probably concerned further Syrian requirements and contingency deliveries should a new outbreak of hostilities with Israel occur. [REDACTED] 25X1

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[REDACTED] Recent Israeli claims that the USSR has sharply stepped up shipments of war material to Syria appear to be unfounded.

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[REDACTED] Soviet ships carrying arms are arriving in Syrian ports in numbers comparable to other periods during this year. [REDACTED]

East European countries have agreed to supply \$10 million worth of small arms, ammunition, and military support equipment to Syria thus far in 1974. Czechoslovakia, which shipped 20 T-55 tanks and 20 OT-64 armored personnel carriers, is the only East European country to deliver major equipment items this year. 25X1

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Iraq

Despite a noticeable strain in relations between Iraq and the USSR in the last year, the Soviets continue to deliver large amounts of military equipment. During the first eleven

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months of 1974, 46 Soviet ships discharged arms in Iraqi ports compared to 37 in all of 1973. [REDACTED]

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Iraq has received some of the USSR's most sophisticated weapons this year, including FROG tactical surface-to-surface rockets, OSA-II guided-missile patrol boats, and since mid-year, two squadrons of MIG-23 jet fighters*. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Moscow is withholding shipments of some ammunition needed by the Iraqi armed forces to support the escalating level of Kurdish hostilities. [REDACTED]

In addition to not meeting specific Iraqi requests for ammunition, Moscow has refused in recent months to conclude a new arms accord with Baghdad. [REDACTED]

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Logistical problems are also affecting Soviet military supplies to Iraq. There has been heavy ship congestion in Iraqi ports due to damage to piers at the Port of Basra; this has resulted in Soviet arms destined for Iraq being off loaded at Syrian ports for shipment by rail to Baghdad. Iraqi attempts to gain Ankara's approval for the USSR to deliver arms by rail and truck through Turkey have thus far been unsuccessful. [REDACTED]

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* In addition, East European countries agreed to supply some \$100 million worth of explosives, ammunition, and army support equipment.

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Arms Supplies from Free World and Other Sources

Egypt

Oil rich Arab states appear to be underwriting a partial Egyptian shift away from Soviet arms. Last April -- following a Soviet Arms cutoff -- Sadat announced a program to diversify Egypt's source of arms. Although some Soviet arms deliveries -- primarily spare parts -- have been resumed, Sadat has continued to send arms purchasing missions to Western Europe. Thus far, Saudi Arabia is in the forefront of financing Western military aid to Cairo.

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The UK recently concluded an agreement that will enable Cairo to assemble and eventually manufacture military helicopters. Both France and Great Britain produce a full range of weapons that compare favorably to equipment produced by the US and USSR. France, in fact, has often been an important source for states seeking to diversify military procurement. Paris has the capability to become a principal supplier of a wide range of arms to one or two countries and the UK has a similar capability to supply ground and naval armaments. Neither France nor the UK maintain large reserves of military equipment,

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however, and the negotiation of long-term contracts with realistic lead times -- one to two years -- would be required before either country could supply large quantities of major equipment: In the short run, therefore, Sadat will continue to rely on Soviet aid to maintain his basic military inventory.

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Libya

Qadhafi, like Egypt's Sadat, has not been content to deal exclusively with the Soviets for military items. Buttressed by vast quantities of oil income, Tripoli concluded agreements with the West totaling about \$300 million during the first half of this year. The most significant of these contracts were deals with Paris for the purchase of 30 Mirage F-1s valued at \$126 million and a \$108 million contract for six missile-armed patrol boats. The aircraft reportedly are to be delivered by 1976. Qadhafi's initiatives in the West are actually not that new. Between 1970-73 Tripoli purchased almost \$475 million in military equipment from the US and Western Europe compared with only \$150 million from Moscow and Eastern Europe. With substantial oil earnings and a West beset by balance of payments deficits, Qadhafi will most likely be a lucrative target of Western arms exporters for some time to come.

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The acquisition of increasingly sophisticated armaments will aggravate Tripoli's already serious problem of maintaining equipment. The recent withdrawal of the Egyptian military mission from Libya has prompted Tripoli to seek additional

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foreign assistance, including additional Soviet military advisors and technicians, [REDACTED]

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Syria

Although Damascus will continue to receive nearly all of its military equipment from the Communist Bloc, the Syrians can be expected to canvas Western arms suppliers for logistic and communications equipment that they are unable to obtain from the USSR and Eastern Europe. Syria purchased a small amount of communications equipment from Italy this year, and has discussed arms purchases with the UK, France and West Germany. [REDACTED]

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Iraq

In an effort to diversify its sources of military equipment and to replenish small arms and ammunition inventories depleted during the fighting with the Kurds, Iraq has purchased over \$300 million in arms from Yugoslavia and West European countries thus far in 1974. Nevertheless, Baghdad remains dependent on Moscow for its major armaments, as well as most key types of small arms and ammunition. [REDACTED]

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In 1974 Yugoslavia sold over \$125 million worth of small arms, ammunition, and military support equipment to Iraq. The purchases from Belgrade were Iraq's first ever from Yugoslavia,

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and underscored Baghdad's determination to diversify its major
sources of conventional armaments while still acquiring weapons
compatible with existing Soviet supplied inventories.

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Arms purchases from West Europe this year total over

\$200 million.

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